



Environmentally Speaking

A Newsletter by Environmental Safety Division

Summer, May 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

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What's New at ESD?



As of April 20, 2009, ESD has a new associate vice president! It is John McCollum of Environmental Protection Division. Congratulations, John!

Biography

- Fifteen years as an environmental program manager with the Environmental Protection Division, Northeast District Office, a division responsible for 41 counties in the northeast Georgia area of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Ten years with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a senior wildlife technician.
- MBA in public administration from Valdosta State University.
- Bachelor's degree in biology from North Georgia College and State University.
- Experience with UGA and the ESD staff on environmental/regulatory issues for years.

We want to welcome John to ESD and to the UGA campus. The university couldn't have found someone more qualified to assume the responsibilities for ESD than John McCollum. The division needs his enthusiasm, experience, and knowledge of environmental/regulatory matters to go forward in divisional growth and service to the university.

And, thank you, Bill Favaloro, for leading the division as an interim to Wayne Dill until a replacement could be found. The experience was invaluable as it was physically demanding since you carried out your normal responsibilities as the outlying facilities manager as well as interim AVP. Your endeavors have been appreciated.

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(Please see 2-pages on "Hazardous Materials Shipping" on pages 4 and 5 of the newsletter.)

RAD DAWG NEWS

Radiation Safety Manual Revision

By Jody Jacobs, Radiation Safety Manager

Two chapters of the UGA Radiation Safety Manual have been revised. The revised chapters are Chapter 5, *Procurement and Transfer of Radioactive Materials* and Chapter 10, *Radioactive Waste Handling and Disposal*. The *Table of Contents* has also been revised, since it includes the current revision number for each chapter.

The revised chapters are available on the Environmental Safety Division's website at the address: <http://www.esd.uga.edu/rad/manual.htm>

The changes include an update of the location of the Radiation Safety lab, modifications to the procurement section to be in keeping with existing policies, revisions to the section on shipping radioactive materials to comply with Department of Transportation regulations, new options for using smaller containers for dry radioactive waste, and other minor changes.

In addition, we have had a sufficient number of copies printed to be able to provide one set for each active Authorized User of radioactive materials on campus. The paper copies have a revision bar in the margin that denotes the location of the revised sections. Distribution of the copies by campus mail has been completed.

Authorized Users are reminded to please ensure that your Radiation Safety Manual is updated with these revisions.

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Bedroom Fire Safety

By Tori Outlaw, Fire Safety Inspector

After the kitchen, the next part of the house to focus your fire safety efforts on is the bedrooms. Many fires that destroy homes begin in bedrooms, so extra attention is required here.

Never smoke in bed, no matter how wide awake you think you are. All it takes is nodding off one time to burn the house down. In fact, you should never smoke while laying down anywhere. Do you use candles in your bedroom? If so, extinguish them before you go to bed, as it's too easy to fall asleep in candlelight, and you don't want a candle burning while you're asleep. If you use candles in the bedroom, or any other room of the house for that matter, make sure that there's nothing flammable they can come in contact with. Curtains and drapes are one big concern – candles should never be placed anywhere near them, as they can ignite and cause a raging fire in no time. If you have a window open, be certain that the wind can't blow the drape or curtain near the candle.

Another common bedroom risk in many areas of the country is space heaters. If you use one, be extra vigilant about fire safety. They can make us much more comfortable in cold weather, but people tend to forget just how hot they actually are. You'll want to keep them away from the bed, so that bed covers don't come in contact with them. You'll also need to make it a habit to never put anything on top of them, or near them, even for a brief period. They have tremendous amounts of heat, and it wouldn't take long for one of them to ignite paper or cloth. Another popular bedroom item that's very helpful but also presents a serious fire hazard is electric blankets. If you use one, make sure you follow all manufacturers' instructions. Misuse can be deadly. Also, electric blankets that are worn, either on the fabric itself, the heating element, or the cord, should be discarded. If you toss and turn a lot, you'll need to make sure your bed isn't against a wall, as an electric blanket can get wedged between the bed and wall, building dangerous heat levels, and leading to a fire. You should also not have any cords for any appliances running under your bed. Ideally, any alarm clocks on night stands should be battery operated or wind up models, but if you use an electric one, make sure your arm can't get tangled in the cord and pull it from the wall. The same goes for reading lamps on night stands. You should also check the windows of bedrooms to make sure they're not painted shut, and can be easily opened in case of fire. If the bedroom is on an upper floor, there should be a fire escape ladder kept very close at all times.

Taking these simple precautions can enable you to sleep soundly, knowing you've done your part to keep your bedroom safe from fire. If you have any questions or concerns on how to fireproof your bedroom, contact our office at 706-369-5706.

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Building a Home Emergency Supply Kit

by Wes Kolar, Hazmat Response Coordinator

Our society is blessed with an abundance of resources including food, clean water, shelter, medical support, sanitation services, and most anything that we need to maintain a healthy existence. Owing to their ready availability, we often take these resources for granted. We are used to turning on the tap and having clean water. We know that we can receive medical support when in need. It is therefore easy to forget that we are subject to both natural and man made emergencies that may limit or remove our ability to obtain the necessities of life. Past instances of wide scale emergencies have proven our vulnerability. While the US Government has a great capacity to support those in need of food, water, shelter and the like, during large scale emergency situations it generally takes at least three days from the time that a disaster has been declared until emergency supplies **begin** to arrive on site. Agencies such as the Red Cross and FEMA therefore recommend that US households keep an emergency supply kit in their homes that contains at least a three day supply of provisions. Emergency supplies should include all of the items that we use on a daily bases, and must include those that we cannot do without. Some of the most important items to maintain in a home kit are listed below.

Water

Since we cannot survive for much more than three days without a source of clean drinking water, this item is a necessity for home emergency supply kits. A bare minimum of one gallon per person per day will provide enough for both drinking and sanitation purposes. Water that is potentially contaminated with biological substances can be purified by either boiling, or by the addition of 1/8 teaspoon of household (5% sodium hypochlorite) bleach to one gallon followed by thorough mixing. Water purified with bleach should be allowed to stand for at least 30 minutes before use. Biological substances can also be treated by the addition of water purification tablets that are available wherever camping supplies are sold. Additional water purification methods include filtration through activated charcoal, and the use of hand held reverse osmosis pumps (also available in camping supply locations). Containers must be available to store the purified water.

(Building A Home Emergency Supply Kit, cont.)

Food

Many foods such as canned meats, vegetables, and fruits have a shelf life of at least one year. In order to insure purity, canned foods should be rotated annual. Longer shelf lives are available by using products such as MREs (meals ready to eat) which contain complete meals with a storage life of up to eight years. MREs typically cost around \$8.00/meal including shipping. Food supplies should also include pet food, baby formula, bottles, and powdered milk as needed. Along with food items, anything needed to prepare the food should also be stored including plates and utensils, etc.

First Aid

First aid supplies should include items such as band-aids, gauze, antiseptics, adhesive tape, antibiotic ointment, tweezers, and gloves. Additional items that may be helpful include antacids, aspirin, laxatives, a thermometer, and antibacterial soap.

Medications

A supply of medication should be kept readily available in the emergency kit, especially those that are needed on a daily basis such as insulin, heart and blood pressure medications, and prescription drugs. Additional items may include sun block, contact lens solutions, and denture care products.

Sanitation

Sanitary care items include soap, toilet paper, alcohol wipes, diapers, wash clothes, towels, shampoo, tooth brushes, hand sanitizers, personal hygiene products, disinfectants, chlorine bleach, and garbage bags.

General Supplies

Additional items that may be required in an emergency include extra clothes and bedding, tools, cash, personal documents such as identification, rain gear, sleeping bags, blankets, batteries, and fire extinguishers. Items such as books, puzzles and games should be included, particularly when children are involved. In order to help insure a timely flow of information during an emergency, it is also a good idea to keep a battery operated radio on hand.

We all hope that we will never be confronted with a disaster situation, but we can help insure the safety of ourselves and our loved ones by being well prepared in advance. Several sources of information on disaster supply kits are located on the internet including; www.fema.gov/areyouready/appendix_b.shtml, <http://www.redcross.org/>, and http://homebuying.about.com/cs/saferooms/a/disaster_kit.htm.

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Hazardous Materials Shipping

General

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) has strict and complex regulations governing the shipment of hazardous materials through public contractors, i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc. Shipping personnel must have specialized training and ensure specific packages, labels and paperwork are properly used. Therefore, the Hazardous Materials Treatment Facility (HMTF) has been designated as the one central hazardous material shipping center for the University of Georgia campus. These personnel are fully trained and have materials to handle shipment of most, if not all, hazardous materials. Please ensure any hazardous materials you need to ship off campus through a public contractor are coordinated through the HMTF. Our normal operating hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, in case of an emergency please contact UGA Public Safety (24/7) at (706) 542-2200 (UGA Police).

Please keep in mind that there are very costly penalties associated with non-compliance of the DOT regulations. A person who knowingly violates the Federal hazardous material transportation laws can be fined, imprisoned or both. Monetary fines can range from \$275 to \$32,500 per day of offense for civil fines, a maximum of \$500,000 and / or up to 5 years in prison for criminal violations.

Hazardous Materials Defined

Hazardous materials, for the purpose of transportation, are those in one or more of the following groups:

- Explosive materials
- Gases
- Flammable liquids
- Combustible liquids
- Flammable and/or water-reactive solids
- Oxidizers
- Poisonous materials
- Infectious materials
- Radioactive materials
- Corrosive materials
- Miscellaneous hazardous materials
- Marine pollutants

(See 49 CFR Part 172.101 for Hazardous Material Table: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2007/octqtr/pdf/49cfr172.101.pdf)

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(Hazardous Materials Shipping, cont.)

How to Get Your Materials Shipped

Prior to the shipment date, HMTF must be contacted to arrange the shipment. We require that you notify HMTF of your need to ship at least three days ahead of when you need it shipped. Fill out the Hazardous Materials Shipment Request form completely and submit. The form is available from our website at <http://www.esd.uga.edu/hazmat/> and will be automatically forwarded to our office upon completion. After you have submitted the form, please call the HMTF office between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at (706) 369-5706 to verify that we have received your request.

Please fill out the form completely; failure to do so will result in delay of shipment.

Requestor Responsibilities

To have hazardous materials shipped you must:

- Provide suitable containers for the material being shipped. The containers must be free of any chemical contamination and tightly sealed to prevent leakage. Please do not seal your package, HMTF personnel will need to inspect the contents prior to preparing for shipment. Please contact the HMTF at (706) 369-5706 with any questions related to the selection of suitable shipping containers for your hazardous material.
- Ensure all containers are accurately labeled with exact names as well as exact contents (including percentages of each chemical if it is a mixture).
- Fill out a Hazardous Materials Shipment Request form. Please make sure that all sections are filled out accurately and completely; failure to do so will result in delay of shipment.
- Label chemicals to be shipped with shipment request form receipt. Please place copies of the request form receipt onto chemicals to be shipped. This ensures HMTF personnel will be able to locate chemicals to be shipped while in your lab for pickup.
- Agree to pay all charges associated with shipping your hazardous materials. When possible HMTF will provide a cost estimate prior to shipment.

HMTF Responsibilities

HMTF personnel will pickup the chemicals from your lab and process them for shipment. This includes:

- Proper identification and classification of the material.
- Choosing appropriate, certified packaging.
- Completing the required shipping documents.
- Affixing the appropriate, required labels/markings.
- Arranging for a qualified shipping company to ship.

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Once shipment has been completed, HMTF will notify requestor by email. This email will include the tracking number for the shipment.

- We will keep shipment documentation on file as required in 49 CFR 172.201(4)(e).

Hazardous Materials Shipments Sent To UGA Facilities While Traveling Abroad

All UGA personnel needing to send any item listed as a hazardous material as described in 49 CFR 172.101 will be required to take an approved online Department of Transportation (DOT) training prior to shipping hazardous materials and failure to do so can result in costly fines.

The HMTF staff will be glad to assist you in selecting the right DOT training course, please call (706) 369-5706 for assistance.

Fill out the Hazardous Materials Shipment Request form as previously described and submit to HMTF for review.

Photographs of the package to be shipped must be submitted to our office before it can be offered for shipment. The photographs submitted must show all labels and markings on the package; this includes, but is not limited to, the proper DOT shipping description, hazard class labels, package certification markings and package orientation labels. This will allow HMTF personnel to inspect the package prior to shipment for any potential problems. You must also obtain a letter of approval from the HMTF prior to shipping; this document will be sent to you via fax or e-mail and should be kept on file with your shipping papers.

If you have any questions or need assistance in preparing your package for shipment, please call our office at (706) 369-5706. For emergency situations concerning a package that has been shipped or will be shipped, please contact UGA Public Safety at (706) 542-2200. Thank you for your cooperation.

(Adapted from the University of Utah – Environmental Health & Safety Dept)

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Chematix Corner

By Bill Megathlin, Environmental Safety Specialist

Ring! Ring! Anybody there?

Our Hazardous Waste Technicians rely on you to verify the contact information provided on your waste pick-up requests. Chematix automatically populates the phone number field with the information on file with the UGA Directory. This information may be outdated or may provide a phone number to an office that is rarely occupied. Before submitting any requests, please verify that the phone number is correct and also consider providing an additional contact number in the instructions field on the Pick-up Worksheet. This could be a cell phone number or another phone in the lab. We cannot pick-up waste unless we are able to contact you to schedule an appointment so that someone is present to sign the manifest. To update the phone number that is automatically populated in Chematix, contact your departmental business manager.

Access Denied... If you're having trouble accessing Chematix, you may not be on file or active in the UGA main database. This is often the case with third party or "incubator" company staff that may be utilizing UGA services and/or facilities, but are not directly paid by UGA. To resolve this issue, you must be added as either a visitor or consultant/contractor for the duration of your stay. Complete and follow the instructions on this form: http://www.uga.edu/ugacard/forms/visitor_request.pdf. Once you have secured a UGACard (photo ID), you can request a MyID (UGA login and email) by visiting <https://paul.uga.edu/MIRA/>. When you have been issued a MyID you will be granted access to Chematix. For further information or if you are currently employed or enrolled at UGA but still cannot access Chematix, please call us at 706-542-5801.

A last minute note that Environmental Safety's Hazardous Materials Waste Storage Facility was recently inspected by the State of Georgia Environmental Protection Division. One part of this routine inspection verifies that UGA has a properly functioning hazardous chemical waste tracking system. Chematix rose to the challenge and provided inspectors with the necessary information to confirm that we are maintaining proper "cradle-to-grave" records. Many thanks to our hazardous waste management team for their efforts during the conversion from the legacy "Blue Tag" system to Chematix!

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Swimming Pool Safety

By Beth Maples, Environmental Safety Specialist

It's that time of year where a common source of relief from the hot summer sun is in a swimming pool. Before making a splash this summer, be sure you are familiar with important basic components of pool safety such as recreational water illnesses, fence and gate security, supervision of children, and life saving flotation devices. You will find a wealth of pool and spa safety information at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthySwimming/>.

Also, take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Virginia Graeme Baker Act. Whether you are swimming in a public or residential pool and spa, it is very important to understand the dangers associated with entrapment.

Virginia Graeme Baker Act

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act, which became effective in December 2008, requires all public pools to be designed to prevent drain entrapments and eviscerations. Under this law, all public pools must have compliant drain covers and an additional anti-entrapment system installed if there is only one drain. Please visit the US Consumer Product Safety Commission at <http://www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/vgb/poolspa.aspx> to read more about public pool and spa requirements as well as what can be done to make residential pools and spas safer.

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MAREX Helps Keep Trash and Other Debris from Georgia's Marine Waters

Contributed by Bill Favaloro,
Outlying Facilities Manager

The University of Georgia Marine Extension Service (MAREX), with funding from a Department of Natural Resources Coastal Incentive Grant, is working with community partners to help reduce the amount of trash reaching Georgia's beautiful coastal marshes and waterways. The project's goal was to reduce fishing and boating debris by providing alternative safe disposal solutions for both recreational and commercial fishermen (as shown below).



Monofilament Recycling Stations

MAREX established 82 monofilament recycling stations in coastal Georgia and Northern Florida. <http://www.uga.edu/marex/advisory/> on the "Upcoming Events & New Information" section. To date, four boxes of monofilament line and nets weighing 64 lbs, were sent to Berkley®, a national monofilament manufacturer, for recycling. MAREX created a 60 second PSA explaining the monofilament recycling stations that COMCAST aired 239 times on 35 cable channels.



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(MAREX ... cont.)

Waste Dumpsters

Four dumpsters were leased from Southland Waste and situated at three boat ramps and a crab processing facility; Cross Crab sales in Glynn County, Mackay River boat ramp in Glynn County, South Brunswick River boat ramp in Glynn County, and the Champney River boat ramp in McIntosh County. All dumpsters were emptied on a weekly basis, 1/4 to 3/4 full each week. The dumpster stayed in place until March 31st 2009 when funding ended.



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(MAREX ... cont.)

Grocery Stores Work with MAREX to Reduce Plastic Bag Debris

MAREX is partnering with four coastal grocery stores, Piggly Wiggly in Darien, Harris Teeter on Saint Simons Island, and Winn Dixie and Publix in Brunswick to change customer behavior, urging them to replace disposable plastic grocery bags with decorated reusable bags. We hosted outreach events at the selected grocery stores to educate the public about the negative impact of plastic bags lost to the ocean. Since even the nominal cost of purchasing re-usable bags is a barrier for some (\$1 per bag), during the outreach events, re-usable bags from each store were given away for free. In March 2009, 500 bags were given away to members of the public and hundreds of shoppers learned about the harmful impacts of marine debris.



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